

W. M. BairdPyeng Yang, Korea,  
Sept 19th. 1905.

My Dear Brother; -

As I wrote you I got the various books, including Calvin, Alexander, & Mary's bible. I suppose you will send a list so that I may know whether I get all. I am somewhat at a loss to know what to do with John's gift. He already has a bible which he got as a prize for learning the catechism. William and Richard have none. I would give the book to one of them but I do not wish to go contrary to Mary's desires in the matter. In any case I am thankful to her for it and think I shall save it and present it at Christmas



time to one of them.

We have had dreadful rains and storms in this part of the world recently. As a result bridges have been washed out and travel has been almost impossible. The Presbyterian Council met in Seoul. As the children had not recovered ~~them~~ I could not go. The Mission Meeting was to be here. But after the rains travel seemed impossible, so all decided to remain in Seoul. Trains have commenced to run <sup>again</sup> (flat cars) and I expect to start down tomorrow, either alone or accompanied by Morris of the M. E. Mission. Will probably be gone a week.

Three new missionaries, Mr. McClure and his wife and Miss Donaldson (now Mrs. Koons) arrived in Seoul the other day. They were shipwrecked this side of Fusan in the night. Their steamer



sunk, though they got away onto an island, and were picked up by a passing steamer in the morning. Miss Donalson fell into the water and went under. Mr. McBurne reached down his hand and got hold of her hand as she reached up out of the water, and so pulled her out. It seems a most providential escape. McBurne is to be my associate in the academy. His wife is a McAfee, a sister of the present president of the college at Park.

God has recently come of the death of Annie's sister, Mrs. Mills. You will remember that it was at her house that her doubtless at our wedding. They were all spending the summer in Colorado. Mother Adams was with them.



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She was sick but a few days at the last. though she has long had hemorrhages. Both she and her husband have spent each summer in the mountains for a long time. She probably got the disease from her husband. She was a very cheerful, bright natured person, always active in every good work, the light of her home and of any company. This is the second daughter her mother has recently lost, and at her age it is very hard on her. She is a beautiful christian character, and is just waiting her exodus to go over and join the majority with a brave and faithful spirit.

Do you know Parker's People's Bible? What parts of it do you think best? I have none of it, and if it is valuable I am thinking of getting a volume or two. I wish you would let me know which you think the most worth having. How are they getting along at Lane?



How is Robert Kirby doing? Who is pastor at Charlestown? How is he and the church doing? Who is pastor at Owen Creek?

Did you find out about Calvin's Commentaries - whether they could be gotten in separate volumes, and how much they would cost?

Do you know about specially made Bibles? I mean not the ordinary kinds. In Cincinnati, Kansas City, Chicago, &c. I only found the regular kinds for the ordinary trade. I occasionally see a special bible with unusual features. I wish I knew a place where such were on sale. I want to know what kinds are to be had before purchasing. I saw recently an Old Testament with Hebrew and English on alternate pages. Some bibles have specially fine notes, I think the



"Englishman's Bible" has, some bibles have margins very wide for writing in notes, and some have alternate blank pages for keeping notes. Such books are not in the ordinary trade and cannot be gotten at the regular book stores. I want to find out where they can be gotten. I think it is probable that they are more apt to be gotten in England.

Are there any living books coming out now - books not meant for that day or that year - but vital, and strong, and helpful, and keeping hold of 'first truths'? I know as little about a book from merely seeing it reviewed. There surely must be some great books written these days, though I do not hear of them.

I am glad you go away on a vacation, and am glad you got down to see the people near our old home. They will be glad to see you. I hope many of them are remembering the Covenant which the fathers and mothers made for their children.

With love to you both. Your brother,  
 P.S. Can you send this to Mary? I  
 was not able to write to her soon.  
 W. M. Baird



W. M. BAIRD

Pyeng Yang, Korea.  
Oct 27th, 1905-

My Dear Brother; - I fear it has been a long time since I have written to you. Time passes rapidly when one is busy, and that is the way I have been most of the time recently. School opened Oct 3rd. We and the M. E. Mission have united for this year in school work. As yet they have no buildings here but they furnish a teacher & write on our plant. Mr. Becker is the man they send, a young man recently married, and a very pleasant associate in school work. There were over seventy new applicants for entrance. The enrollment of the school now is one hundred & twenty, which means



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That we have the largest Christian  
School in Korea here. In age  
and advancement also the pupils  
are ahead of <sup>more of</sup> any other school. It  
is not called a college, but the pupils  
are mostly of college age, and  
are taking many college studies. Next  
year we plan to open a higher  
department which will be called a  
college. These various duties  
of dealing with pupils - as well  
as conducting the individual department  
have absorbed so far, we do in  
these opening days. ~~we~~ have been  
very busy. With the large increase  
of students faith is taxed to the  
limit to assume responsibility for  
the furnishing so many with a occupation  
by which they can earn their sup-  
port. We have no appropriation for  
the purpose - and ask none - but  
depend on ~~the~~ voluntary gifts for  
the support of pupils. These gifts  
have never been asked for from



man. The needs are presented to  
 the Lord, and hitherto he has  
 not failed us. There are now  
 sixty six families working in  
 the work department. We do not  
 know how they are to be fed for the  
 coming year. Faith for a smaller  
 number seems easier than for a larger  
 number, and I start out into this  
 year with much fear and trembling,  
 though I believe with more prayer than  
 in the past. I am sure you have  
 always prayed for us personally, but I  
 feel that we especially need all your  
 prayers this year. I especially request  
 prayer that the Holy Spirit may be  
 richly poured out on these ~~boys~~  
 students so that the results shall  
 not be simply intellectual training,  
 but that this company of students may



form an organized body of trained workers, fired with enthusiasm for Christ, already equipped with the Korean language, and able to live in their native surroundings at a cheaper rate and with less danger to life than foreigners have to encounter because they are used to the conditions. A body of real, earnest, strong, educated Christians filled with the Holy Spirit would at this time of turning toward the Church have a great effect upon the whole nation. If our weak faith can but be replaced by a strong faith - a faith that becomes contagious to all the people - I believe God means to use this school greatly for his glory.

Of course you know that we are virtually under a protective cover. It was a crushing blow to every self-respecting Korean, and was done in the face of Japan's re-



treated promises to the Embassy, and  
 thought that the presence of any other  
 member that Japan might have  
 left. But we have long since learned  
 what Japanese promises mean. They  
 are useless to us only as the means  
 of accomplishing diplomatic ends. And  
 so long as we are being wronged we  
 either withdraw or insist and the  
 weak nation has no chance for a  
 hearing & would not be helped if Great  
 Britain promises to protect them in  
 dependence can be ground work making  
 and so on the one side of carrying  
 credit with the necessary result for  
 who are near by, and know how the  
 world is divided into admiration of Japan, can  
 not but advise Japan while in power and  
 in tribulation, though we cannot advise  
 the other step if by which she is a



many results, and now hearts ache for  
the poor prisoners now ground together  
by under the cruel and relentless heel of  
the conqueror. The ordinary Japanese, when  
he feels that he has the power to die, is  
as cruel and heartless as death, and the  
barr-kroom had as soon expect mercy  
from a stone as from him.

However these are the hard facts with  
which we will have to deal in the future,  
and though we possess with us a hard  
hearted indifference, doubts in the Providence  
of God it will be the means of  
bringing peace. One answer to the  
proportion of acquaintance with the conditions  
of the modern world, lest which  
we should rejoice that Japan engaged rather  
than Russia, though it is the lot of this  
evils for a time it may in the end  
prove a great blessing.

The <sup>new</sup> American Minister, Mr. Morgan,  
said a paper visit to Tokyo, having of course  
with a companion, one of whom was a  
seaward Hokkaido. ~~Mr. Morgan~~







go now to see him. I have  
been dig among my teeth. I am  
sorry you had to lose all of yours,  
but suppose it was best by the time  
has come. I thought the Bond teeth  
were pretty good. I wonder what you happen  
to lose your teeth so early?

We are expecting the Japanese army  
to return soon from Manchuria and to  
be encamped here for a time. They  
have had a long campaign and are  
returning after victories so it is not  
to be expected that there will be many  
outrages.

With love to you both  
Your Brother  
W. M. Bond



Pyeng Yang, Korea. Jan'y 23rd, 1905.

My Dear Brother;--

Today the work closed in the theological class and tomorrow the academy opens after a vacation. There are a number of applicants for entrance this term. I do not know how many there will be but think there will probably be an enrollment for the year ~~for~~ of about ninety or a hundred.

We are having a winter of exceptional mildness. We have scarcely seen snow and the little ice we had ~~a~~ has all melted. Our prospect for ice next summer is exceedingly small.

The Japanese railroad is progressing rapidly. First the bed was prepared, then the rails were laid, then a construction train went over frequently taking materials to the inland points. Work on the temporary bridges is now going on rapidly and we ~~w~~ expect before very long to have trains for passengers passing within a stone's throw or two of our place. Through passengers from Europe will probably be soon passing by us. It seems scarcely possible after having been so long isolated from the world. I suppose a train seems nothing strange to you, but years of separation from these things enable us very well to understand the wondering interest of the children who do not remember having seen a train before, except Bohn, perhaps.

I have not yet heard from Smith or from Dr. Parsons regarding the telescope, transit, &c., though I got a letter from Smith the other day. I judge they have not yet reached him. I shall be anxious until I hear from them. I should have enjoyed having had them here these past few months as we could often have gotten a good view of the stars and we have a good class who are ready to appreciate it fully.



By the way I do not know what idea the givers of the telescope and other instruments had in giving them, that is, whether they meant to give them to the Pyeng Yang Academy regardless of whoever might be connected with it, or whether they meant me to have some voice in the disposition of the instruments in case I might be removed to some other place or institution. I am not contemplating a removal soon and I am not aware that anyone is thinking of such a thing for me, but in case such an event should happen I <sup>might</sup> ~~should~~ be sorry to leave the instruments. However, that all depends on the purpose of the givers, and an expression from them would settle the matter. If their intention was to make a present outright to the Board or to Pyeng Yang Academy of course that is what I want too, and I should try to be prepared to give up all control of the instruments without disappointment in case of removal from this school. And after all perhaps that would be the best way.

I see you and your church are written up in the last H.&P. I am sure you deserve all the good things they say about you.

With love to you all from us all I am

Your Brother,

W. M. Baird.



W. M. BAIRD

Pyeng Yang, Korea. Feb'y 4th, 1905.

My Dear Brother;--

I am taking advantage of Saturday and the Korean New Years day to write to you. I have been very irregular in all correspondence for a long time but do not think that my writing has been so infrequent as your notices of receipts of letters from me would imply. I wish I could write oftener and more fully. You are sometimes a model in that respect. It seems as if my little round of daily duties absorbed my whole time and strength and the things that I would often prefer to do do not get done.

There were twenty eight new applicants for admission to the academy which will bring up the enrollment to almost one hundred. I try to be to them not only an instructor, but in so far as possible a father and a pastor. About half of them are supported in the manual labor department and work must be provided for them daily, and this often taxes me to the utmost. The starting of a manual labor school here somewhat on the plan of Park College was my own idea and it has not altogether won its way with the missionary body, so that I am kept on my metal to see that it is not a failure. We ask no money for it from the Board. In fact no money has been asked for from any source, we preferring to use what the Lord sends as George Muller did. Hitherto the institution has grown in this way, until now between forty and fifty pupils, are enabled to earn their support in school by means of their own labor. Very little money is actually used in supporting pupils. If money is received unsolicited it is expended in securing a plant where the boys can work and support themselves. I think it would be interesting were I able to write all



the features of the school including the religious work but have not time now.

I have not as yet heard any thing from the instruments. I try not to be anxious, but to wait for them with patience. I have written to Smith but not to Dr. Parsons. I do not know what steps to take from this end. I have received no intimation that they have left America as yet or that they have reached Smith. The heavens have been fine this winter and we could have used the instruments with great profit. We will be prepared to enjoy them greatly when they come.

I have not gotten to write to Mr. Warner. I wish I could have done so. I remember the family very well, though when you mention the daughters I am not always sure which branch of the family they belong to. I have been greatly sorry to hear of the sickness in the family. Have meant to write to Mr. Warner upon the arrival of the instruments as I understand that he is sending in the lot a set of engraving tools. They have not come yet. Please express to him my thanks and to him and his family my regards.

I have wondered about uncle James in his last days, whether he gave thought to his soul's interests. Also I wonder what his family are doing. I wish they could know that they are the decedents of praying ancestors and give their hearts to the God of their ancestors.

The story books were divided among the children and greatly appreciated by them. They came in just the nick of time for we had been deluged with some vile stuff which had been sent to some of the neighbors- collected from the "Sunday" newspapers. I forbade it the house but the small fry were heart broken for the loss of "those beautiful pictures." Your little booklets had really artistic pictures in them as well as instructive reading and were welcome to the boys and to me as a substitute for the others.



This winter has not been cold and we have had very little snow and ice. It is now a little colder than it has been. There are but few Japanese soldiers here. The railroad is being completed rapidly. The winter has not stopped the work. Temporary bridges are being put in over the rivers. The Japanese are gradually but secretly taking possession of Korea while they profess to be working from disinterested motives.

I hope you and Bertha are well. With love to you both from us all I am

Your Brother,

W. M. Baird



Pyeng Yang, Korea. Feb'y 17th, 1905.

My Dear Brother;--

I am just now in receipt of a letter from you, date Dec. 23th, which says that you have not received a letter from me for more than two months. I do not see how that can be for I do not believe I have been so remiss as that. I have not written as often as I wished, but feel sure it has never been that long between letters. I have no word yet concerning the telescope. I have written to Smith's Cash Store, but not to Dr. Parsons. I was not sure from what place the things were sent. I think Smith would have notified me if he had forwarded the things. Am therefore of the opinion now that they have never reached him. We could have used them so well this winter. Now that Jupiter and Venus are approaching each other we regret a not having the opportunity to watch them salute each other as they pass.

The week's work in the school is about over. We will have an enrollment for the year of about one hundred. There are eighty seven in attendance at present, averaging in age about twenty years, which I suppose is not much less than the average of the age of pupils in Han-  
over. There is now a great desire to enter school on the part of unbelievers and the sons of rich men, and magistrates. Hitherto we have not had many such, but the school has made a reputation over all this part of Korea and now our anxiety is not to get pupils but to know what to do with them. It is not my desire to take in these boys very much, but having commenced by taking in a few I find it difficult to keep others out.

For the past ten days we have all joined in evangelistic services in all the churches and chapels in the city. There seems to be



an unparalleled movement toward the church. About five hundred persons have within that time handed in their names as desiring to be considered as wishing to be Christians. We have had meetings every night at every one of <sup>h</sup> which the Gospel net was cast and at every one of which there were professions of desire to become Christians. The interest shows no signs of abating and our wonder now is how we can look after all of these with our present force and at the same time do all the other work that must be done. Instruction is now of prime importance. There are afternoon meetings for workers held after which all go out and invite to church in the evening. As a result of these invitations and conversations many are led to desire to believe before they come to church, and the audience that assembles is an orderly and attentive one although they <sup>are</sup> mostly unbelievers, the believers who come regularly being mostly the workers. I wish <sup>h</sup> this plan of having practically all the real Christians become a <sup>w</sup> working band and <sup>g</sup> going out onto the streets, into the shops and homes and everywhere men and women and children may be found and bring <sup>ing</sup> home the claims of the gospel to them could be tried by our home churches. Did the churches of any city or district <sup>they</sup> do so concertedly I believe ~~it~~ would shake the city or district to its foundations and bring many to Christ.

With love to you all I am

Your Brother,

W. M. Baird.



#198 d.

Pyeng Yang, Korea, May 29th, 1905.

My Dear Brother;--

I preached yesterday, and am just home now from the funeral services of the father of one of the graduating class. I am tired. The Academy closes in June 12th with regular exercises. There are four graduates. This is the second class to graduate, so the school is moving on toward permanence and there is some talk of college work being taken up.

I was greatly surprised of course at what you told me about Mary's plans, but if she has made a wise choice and will be happy in it I rejoice with her. I presume I shall know some day how it all came about, all about the wedding, the bridegroom the leavetaking, &c. I wish I was there to join in good wishes.

I must close up now and tell her what I think about not letting me know first.

With love to you all

Your brother,

*J.M. Baird*

P.S.

Perhaps you have heard of Mrs. Hunt who was supported by the New Albany Presbytery. She died suddenly last week in the absence of her husband. The sickness was blood poisoning. She was a cousin of Wood Finley. Mr. Hunt's furlough is due and he leaves here about June 6th.

I want to make Mary a present at the time of, or, if that is not possible, after the wedding. If you will do so I wish you would get her a present costing ten or twenty dollars, and charge to my account. I presume Dr. Fisher will send to you for the prize money. So I will have other bills to pay you.